

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: UN, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 55TH ECOSOC: ECOSOC ORGANIZATION OF WORK

REF: (A) STATE 145657 (B) GENEVA 3827

1. BRAZIL'S EFFORT REPORTED REFTEL (B) MISUNDERSTOOD BY DEPT, SINCE OVBIOUSLY NOT WELL STATED IN FIRST DRAFT RESOLUTION. THEIR EFFORT IS SIMPLY ONE TO LIMIT AGENDA IN ORDER GIVE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION SUCH IMPORTANT ITEMS AS REVIEW AND APPRAISAL, WHICH ALL AGREE IS NOT NOW BEING GIVEN LEVEL CONSIDERATION COMMENSURATE WITH IMPORTANCE. FURTHERMORE DIVISION BETWEEN SOCIAL AND COORDINATION MATTERS IN SPRING AND SUMMER IS ATTEMPT RE-EMPHASIZE DIVISION WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT UNTIL 54TH ECOSOC. IT IS TO ENSURE ONLY TWO SESSIONAL COMMITTEES BE ESTABLISHED EACH SESSION (SEE PARA 3 DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT FOLLOWS)- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEES AT SPRING; ECONOMIC AND COORDINATION AT SUMMER.

2. PARA 4 OF FOLLOWING TEXT IS AGAIN ATTEMPT RE-EMPHASIZE PROCEDURE WHICH IN EFFECT FOR AT LEAST 4 OR 5 YEARS, BUT WHICH ONLY FEW COUNTRIES FOLLOW. U.S. IS ONE; NOTE ONE U.S. STATEMENT REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AND ONE ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES COVERING 4 OR 5 SUB-ITEMS.

3. PARA 5 IS EXPERIMENTAL AND MERELY SETS UP AN AGENDA COMMITTEE TO MAKE PRELIMINARY SCREENING OF AGENDA ITEMS. DEPARTMENT WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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RECALL THIS WAS TRIED ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO BUT WAS ABANDONED.

U.S. DEL SEES NO DIFFICULTY IN TRYING AGAIN, SINCE ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING AGENDA INTO WORKING PROPORTION WHICH IS ALSO DESIRE OF U.S.

4. PARA 6 IS A JAPANESE PROPOSAL WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE DROPPED SINCE ITS INTENTION IS COVERED IN RULES OF PROCEDURE (RULE 15).

5. PARAS 7 AND 8 ARE UK PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED BY THOSE COUNTRIES BEING CONSULTED. THEY SEEM HARMLESS HOWEVER. PARA 7 REFLECTS POSITION US HAS TAKEN OVER THE YEARS.

6. U.S. WILL CONTINUE COOPERATION IN CONSULTATIONS TAKING PLACE WITH NEW ZEALAND, UK, BRAZIL, SPAIN, ARGENTINA, KENYA, POLAND, USSR, JAPAN, FINLAND. WE BELIEVE EFFORT TO BRING AGENDA INTO FOCUS AND MORE LIMITED TO IMPORTANT ITEMS IS WORTH A TRY. TECHNIQUES WHICH FAILED IN PAST MAY NOW WORK.

7. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS COGENT REASONS AGAINST, AND IN LIGHT OF OBJECTIVES OF EXERCISE AND OUR RELATIONS WITH FRAZAO, IF WE STAISFIED WITH OUTCOME WE WOULD CO-SPONSOR. IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED THIS IS EXPERIMENTAL FOR 1974 AND WE CALL ATTENTION TO FACT THERE ALREADY AN ITEM ON AGENDA OF 56TH SESSION "RATIONALIZATION OF WORK OF ECOSOC" (REF. (A) PARA 4) UNDER WHICH WE CAN RE-CONSIDER THIS APPROACH IF IT DOESN'T WORK.
DRAFT RESOLUTION

QUOTE. 1. DECIDES TO CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION AT FUTURE SESSIONS ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF CAREFULLY SELECTED MAJOR POLICY ISSUES TO BE STUDIED IN DEPTH WITH A VIEW TO ELABORATING CONCRETE ACTION-ORIENTED RECOMMENDATIONS;

2. REQUESTS ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES, WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPETENCES, IN EXAMINING THE ISSUES OF THEIR AGENDA AND REPORTING THEREON TO THE COUNCIL, TO HIGH-LIGHT THOSE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON WHICH ACTION IS REQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL, THUS ENABLING IT TO EXPEDITE ITS DISCUSSIONS AND CONCENTRATE ON TAKING APPROPRIATE DECISIONS;

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3. DECIDES FURTHER THAT, SAVE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE URGENT MATTERS HAVE ARISEN AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF WORK AT ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY, THE SESSIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE SHALL NOT MEET AT THE COUNCIL'S FIRST REGULAR SESSION AND THE SESSIONAL SOCIAL COMMITTEE SHALL NOT MEET AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION;

4. REQUESTS FURTHER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, WHEN PREPARING THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSIONS TO ARRANGE THE AGENDA ITEMS IN AN INTERGRATED MANNER, SO THAT SIMILAR AND CONNECTED ISSUES CAN BE DISCUSSED IN ONE DEBATE AND UNDER A SINGLE HEADING;

5. AUTHORIZES ITS BUREAU TO PREPARE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, THROUGH THE REGIONAL GROUPS, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SECRETARIAT, A LIST OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF MAJOR POLICY ISSUES AND OTHER PRIORITY ITEMS, AIMING AT NOT MORE THAN FIFTEEN PER SESSION FOR THE COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1974, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY 1974.

6. DECIDES TO REFER AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE THE PROBLEMS WHICH DO NOT FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF ISSUES AS DEFINED IN PARA 1, TO ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES UNTIL THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL BECOMES SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR.

7. DECIDES IN PRINCIPLE THAT ITS TWO ANNUAL REGULAR SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS SHALL CONTINUE TO BE SCHEDULED FOR FOUR WEEKS, AND THAT THE BUREAU SHALL REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE SESSION CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF REVISING THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK SO THAT IF POSSIBLE THE SESSIONS CAN COMPLETE THEIR WORK AHEAD OF TIME.

8 SUGGESTS THAT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A MORE ACTIVE DIA-LOGUE IN THE COUNCIL, WHERE POSSIBLE, MEMBERS SHOULD CONSIDER CIRCULATING PREPARED STATEMENTS IN ADVANCE SO THAT THESE MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERATION OF ACTION PROPOSALS.

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